

Human Relations News

from the

NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON ST.
NEWARK 2, N. J.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Vol. 1 No. 5

A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

May 1957

Mayor Carlin Appoints New Commissioners

At the last regular meeting on April 25th the Commission welcomed to its Board, Mrs. Anna D. Sosnicky, 64 Plymouth Street, Newark, who was sworn into office on April 17th. She is the first person of Slovakian descent to be appointed to the Commission.

Mrs. Sosnicky is an honor graduate of the Newark schools system and is an active member of religious and civic organizations in this area. The new Commissioner has been a school traffic guard for four years at South Orange and Speedway Avenues.

As we go to press, Mayor Carlin has set aside Friday, May 10th at 12:15 p.m. for the swearing in of Timothy O'Brien. He will complete the list of this year's replacements and bring the Commission up to its full strength of 15 members.

Mrs. O'Brien, a resident of the Clinton Hill area, is head of the CYO program of Blessed Sacrament Church and is a member of the Executive Board of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council.

May Meeting of Commission

The regular meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations will be held in Room 100, in City Hall at 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 15.

An election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be held. The Commission will be addressed by Dr. Chester Rapkin, and George and Eunice Grier, researchers who are conducting the Survey of Intergroup Relations in this community.

Community Survey of Intergroup Relations Begins in Newark

Mayor and City Council Approve Two Year Research Project

Mayor Leo P. Carlin and the City Council have approved a budget allocation of \$33,500 for a Community Survey of Intergroup Relations and Practices in Newark.

The study is designed to aid our citizens and community specialists in utilizing our maximum human resources to keep abreast of the economic advances proposed and planned in the concept of the New Newark.

This preliminary research is the first step in a more complete community study which will extend over a two year period and involve the best experts and consultants in the United States.

The research program in intergroup relations began on May 1, 1957 and will continue through 1958. \$3,500 was allocated for the preliminary part of this study which will identify the major group relations problems and the areas of greatest concern in this community.

Dr. Chester Rapkin, economic research consultant, who is professor of Urban Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, will direct the staff of researchers doing the initial study. It will extend over a three month period and will be headed by George and Eunice Grier, research specialists in the field of intergroup relations.

The changing economic composition of Newark's population in recent years has resulted in the need for greater attention to the specific problems which

Mayor Leo P. Carlin's Commission on Group Relations was set-up to deal with. The study will point up the nature and scope of problem areas and develop a program of research on which the Commission will base its future education and action projects in Newark. It will be focused on the need for a community wide approach to changing neighborhood patterns, public and private housing, and other aspects of community living; such as education and municipal and welfare services which are related to the overall community picture.

The Survey will draw upon the knowledge, experience and research studies of public officials, private agencies, community leaders and other informed persons who can shed light on these questions of community and intergroup relations. The researchers will place some emphasis on existing statistical research studies of the United States Census and any other body of fact which will help them to determine areas in which there is evidence of discrimination or denial of civil rights inimical to the Law of the State of New Jersey.

Upon completion of the preliminary survey by Chester Rapkin and Associates, three organizations who specialize in research work will be called upon to make proposals and bids for the total community study.



EDITORIAL

Democracy thrives best when everyone helps make it work.

Man's humanity toward man cannot be achieved solely by legislation. Progress in improved human relations depends in the last analysis on what we do as individuals and as members of civic organizations dedicated to this goal.

One of the organizations that has been active in our community is the American Jewish Committee. It is now celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Appropriately, it has chosen as its theme, "The Pursuit of Equality at Home and Abroad". As the oldest Jewish organization in America defending the rights of all men, regardless of race, color or creed, the Committee is not rash or visionary. In its realistic approach to human relations problems, it expects no panacea; it realizes that changes take time. It has always sought to foster mutual respect among the many religious, ethnic and racial groups without asking people to water down their views. Rather, it has pointed the way to new areas of understanding—and self-understanding—which are prerequisite to solving the questions that confront us.

Despite our progress in the past few decades towards improved human relations, we still have much to learn to understand one another better. There is still much to do until we are fully able to quell the passions of intolerance, so that Americans of whatever creed may stand as equals with their neighbors, follow their chosen careers, occupy their rightful places in society, share in full measure the blessings and burdens of citizenship.

Because of the American Jewish Committee's dedicated and level-headed approach to common problems, its long record of working together with other groups in our community, we commend them on their Golden Anniversary. It is good to know that the Committee's Essex County Chapter is functioning to help make America a better place to live.

Central Ward Action Committees

On Wednesday, April 24th in the assembly room of Fuld Neighborhood House, a follow-up action meeting on the Central Ward Neighborhood Conference was held. In addition to the Mayor's Commission there were three other co-sponsors of the event. They were the Urban League of Essex County, Central Newark Community Council and Fuld Neighborhood House. In addition to these groups, 75 persons attended and formed action committees to work on the major problems which came out of the discussions of the Conference on last November 13th.

The meeting was primarily devoted to a discussion of these Central Ward problems and the assignment of individuals to six working committees. The following persons were elected chairmen of the working groups: Lucius Tompkins, President of the Central Newark Community Council was chosen to head-up the committee on housing; Rev. E. Rio Warren was selected to head-up a group on welfare services; Mrs. Helen W. Fullilove will chair the committee on schools; James W. Clement was selected chairman of municipal services and Henry A. Smith will coordinate activities in the field of recreation. The committee on intergroup relations chose Mrs. Vera Turpin as its head.

The meeting was addressed by James A. Pawley, Executive Director of the Urban League, who outlined the progress which had been made since the initial conference on November 13th. He pointed out that all city agency directors had received copies of the findings and conclusions of the first conference. He indicated, also, that many other interested individuals and unofficial agencies throughout the country had requested these reports.

Dr. Antoninette Fried, Director of Fuld Neighborhood House, Jacob Feldman of the Council of Social Agencies, Walter D. Chambers and Daniel S. Anthony, both of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations reported on the results of the first neighborhood conference so that all persons would be sufficiently informed to take action and join committees on housing, welfare services, schools, municipal services, recreation and intergroup relations.

These committees which were formed

at the April meeting will meet within the next few weeks to outline action programs and projects which will be planned to correct some of the problems which Central Ward citizens have felt for a number of years. Most official city agencies involved in the findings of this report have already volunteered to cooperate with the committees. Any persons wishing to serve on any group are asked to contact Dr. Antoninette Fried, TA 4-2747 of the Fuld Neighborhood House; Lucius Tompkins, MI 3-6622, President of the Central Newark Community Council or James Pawley, Executive Director of the Urban League at MA 2-5331.

Newark Youth Council

"United Youth Is Strong Youth"

For the last four years eighty to ninety teenagers have met monthly, during the school year. These Teenagers come from every section of Newark, from all racial, social, religious and economic groupings of Newark as delegates to the Newark Youth Council. They represent 41 youth groups from public and parochial schools, social agencies, churches and synagogues and independent groups.

Due to the makeup of the council its members have had a stimulating experience in intergroup relations in a normal setting.

They have the opportunity to: develop self reliance; learn to express themselves; think through problems affecting their community and themselves; learn self control when listening to the views of others; learn to make judgements based on facts, not on emotions; learn to function under democratic procedures.

They have conducted two annual conferences, with these themes, "The Role of Youth in a Shrinking World" and "Youth Looks Toward the Future". These conferences so impressed the resource people, many of whom came from outside of Newark, that they planned to conduct similar conferences in their own communities.

The Youth Council is sponsored by the Group Work and Recreation Division of the Newark Council of Social

Continued on Page 4, Column 1

Program On Summer Workshops

At the April 25th meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, a panel discussion on summer workshops in human relations was conducted by a group of scholarship winners to past workshops. Led by Dr. Harold Lett, assistant director of the State Division Against Discrimination and co-director of the Rutgers workshops, participating on the panel were: Rev. Stanley Hallett, *Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations*, 1956; Mrs. Sylvia Josephson, *Community Leadership*, 1956; Miss Betty Harris, *Encampment for Citizenship*, 1956 and Commissioner Marion D. Murrill, *Modern Trends*, 1956. The panelists presented a very lively discussion on their experiences as participants in one of these courses. They told how this new experience and knowledge have been applied in their community work.

All of these participants agreed that one of the most outstanding features of a workshop is the opportunity to associate with people of varied backgrounds from many parts of the country. They were able to work on community problems with which they were concerned all year, through the free exchange of ideas and experiences among individuals of heterogeneous background. These week-long associations at the workshops have also led

Clinton Hill Neighborhood Conference

Basing itself on the premise that a good thing is worth repeating, the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council will hold a second annual conference on the theme "Proven—Good Neighbors Make Better Neighborhoods", on Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m. at South Side High School. Dr. John P. Milligan, Director, Division Against Discrimination, New Jersey State Department of Education, will be the conference chairman.

Sponsored by an interreligious, inter-racial group of prominent clergymen, educators, businessmen, and resi-

to lasting bonds of friendship. The panel concluded that their participation made them more equipped as community workers and better prepared as interested citizens to meet their roles in a changing society.

The workshops which are being offered at Rutgers University this year are:

Community Leadership in Intergroup Relations—July 14th-20th.

Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations—July 21st-27th.

Human Relations Education—July 1st-August 9th.

For further information about these workshops and scholarship aid, contact the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Room 214, City Hall, Newark, N. J. MA 3-3232.

dents of the area, the conference will evaluate Clinton Hill's progress in recreation, education, and housing.

The keynote speaker will be Robert C. Hoover, Newark's planning officer, who will outline "Prerequisites for a Clinton Hill Master Plan." The Board of Education has been invited to present to the conference an over-view of the functions of education in the community.

The heart of the conference will be round-table discussion groups, at which those attending will offer opinions and weigh evidence of Clinton Hill's needs and resources. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to participate.

Pre-conference interest is being spurred by parlor meetings and wide circulation of an informational survey drafted by Walter Chambers, assistant director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. The survey invites participation in the planning phases of the conference.

Sponsors of the conference include: Mgr. Cornelius J. Boyle, Blessed Sacrament Church; Rabbi Joachim Prinz, Temple B'nai Abraham; Rev. Curtis B. Geyer, Trinity Methodist Church; Dr. Edith Gann, principal, Avon Avenue School; Dr. B. T. Crombie, president, North Jersey Medical Society; Mr. Pasquale Sozio, principal, Madison Avenue School and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

NAACP Praises Rutgers University

Rutgers University was congratulated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for establishing a deadline date for elimination of fraternity discrimination.

Herbert L. Wright, NAACP youth secretary, told Rutgers Dean Cornelius Boocock that "with more colleges following this lead, we could very quickly and easily remove this ugly blight of discrimination which exists in our institutions of higher education."

Rutgers University has announced that by Sept. 1, 1959, campus fraternities with racial and religious exclusion clauses must have removed such clauses from their constitutions or face expulsion from the university.



Scholarship winners to the 1956 Summer Workshops on Human Relations discuss their experiences with Dr. Harold Lett. Left to right, Miss Betty Harris, Mrs. Sylvia Josephson, Dr. Lett, Mrs. Marion Murrill and Rev. Stanley Hallett.

Newark Youth Council

Continued from Page 2, Column 3

Agencies. It was organized in response to the request of a group of teenagers. They wrote their own constitution. They have adult advisors whom they elect, and who serve in an advisory capacity only; they do not have a vote in the decisions of the council.

Major work of the council is done through committees. Recommendations of all committees are based on facts, and are discussed in council before action is taken.

Questions brought before the council are those in which teen-agers have a vital interest. After coming to conclusions, their findings are presented to the proper adult group for action.

The Council has won recognition on the local, state, national and international level. In May 1955, it received a Special Citation in the Parents Magazine, "Youth Group Achievement Award" for "Sincere understanding of community problems and active assistance in their solutions". In 1956 it received an invitation from the West Berlin, Germany Youth Council to send 8 of its members and two adult advisors to spend the summer in Germany. The invitation was accepted and \$5,700.00 was raised by voluntary subscription to pay for transportation cost of the group. All expenses of the group while in Germany were assumed by the West Berlin Youth Council. The Council has received many invitations in the state and out of the state to send a delegate to tell about the council and assist in the formation of youth councils in these communities. All invitations have been accepted and the representatives have made fine impressions on all groups that they have addressed.

For further information on the Youth Council contact Mr. Jacob Feldman, Council of Social Agencies, 796 Broad Street, Newark 2, N. J. Phone: MA 3-6030.

The First Americans And The Last Citizens

It is a harsh fact that American Indians today are inadequately educated, their health is poor, and their housing and economic conditions are substandard as is shown by the following facts:

Of 400,000 Indians on tribal rolls, 61,000 cannot speak English and some 59,000 cannot read or write. The average education for the Navajos averages less than one year of school. (Bureau of Indian Affairs).

The average age of death for Indians was 36 years in contrast to 61 years for the white population in 1950. (U. S. Public Health).

The tuberculosis death rates for Indians ranges from 5 to 28 times the rate in total population. (U. S. Public Health).

Pneumonia and influenza kill proportionately four times as many Indians as non-Indians. Accidents claim two and one-half times the number of Indians in comparison with the rest of the population. The typhoid fever death rate is four times as high. The average life expectancy of the Indian is just a little more than half that of non-Indians in the nation. (Bureau of Indian Affairs).

The income of Indian farmers is one-fifth that of non-Indians. This is partly due to the fact that 26% of all Indian land has less than 10 inches of rainfall annually, 65% less than 15 inches, 80% less than 20 inches. (20 inches of rainfall is barely enough to raise a crop, and that is providing the rain comes at just the right time in the cycle of growth.) (Christian Century).

Urban League Dinner

The Urban League of Essex County will celebrate its 40th anniversary at a dinner meeting to be held on Thursday, May 23rd, 6:30 p.m. at the Hotel Essex House, Newark, N. J.

SELECTED READING

Books Are Bridges. 1957. American Friends Service Committee, 20 S. 13 Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 515 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. are co-publishers. Annotated bibliography of books suitable for children, graded for kindergarten through junior high school, and chosen for their value in helping "children cross the wide chasms of ignorance, fear and prejudice which often separate people of different cultures."

Fleming, Harold C. and Constable, John. What's Happening in School Integration? 1956. Public Affairs Committee, 22 E. 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. Brief factual history of events since the Supreme Court decisions.

Race and Nationality in American Life. Oscar Handlin. Little, Brown. 1956. "Prejudice and hatred as they affect race, religious and nationality groups."

Is There a Changing Neighborhood? 1957. Baltimore Urban League, 2404 Pennsylvania Avenue, Baltimore 17, Md. Free. Information, persuasively presented, and addressed primarily to white residents of neighborhoods into which Negroes may be moving, calculated to answer questions, allay doubts and give reassurance. Bibliography.

Research in Industrial Human Relations; a critical appraisal. Industrial Relations Research Association, Harper. 1956. "Human relations in business appraised by 13 experts from the fields of labor, management and education."

World's Great Religions. Editors of Life-Time Inc. 1957. "Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and Islamism. Presented with beautiful photography and text."

Segregation and Desegregation, a digest of recent research. 1957. Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Melvin M. Tumin, associate professor of sociology and anthropology at Princeton University has done a scholarly and constructive job of compiling all the current research on this most important subject.

PRAYER PILGRIMAGE FOR FREEDOM

to

Washington, D. C.

May 17th at 12 noon

"TO AROUSE THE CONSCIENCE
OF THE NATION!"

For local information contact:
Rev. Stanley Mollen

581 Clinton Avenue Newark 8, N. J.
Bl 3-3278

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

COMMISSIONERS

Benjamin A. Collier
Dr. Annette Fried
William G. Gernguy

Lawrence B. Heller
Philip Hoggar
Jerry Leupold

Alexander Mark
Phil O. Mayer
Mrs. Charles F. McCarthy

James M. Melnyk
Mrs. Marjorie D. Murrill
Timothy D. O'Brien

Hilton J. Otten
Mrs. Anna D. Susnick
Samuel Weitzman

Daniel S. Anthony, Director
Walter D. Chambers, Assistant Director

Mrs. Lena Deane, Sr. Clerk Stenographer
Mrs. Rebecca F. Mittleman, Sr. Clerk Stenographer

